

Message Text

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61

ORIGIN PRS-01

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DRAFTED BY S/PRS CWAYLAND:MDK
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S/S - O: M. TANNER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 207253 TOSEC 100336

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN
SUBJECT: BALTIMORE SUN EDITORIAL AUG. 29 ON ANGOLAN
EVACUATION -- "MERCY FIRST"

FOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS (FUNSETH)
NO. 38

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF BALT. SUN EDITORIAL, AUG. 29:

"THE UNITED STATES HAS RECEIVED A FORMAL REQUEST FROM PORTUGAL TO AIRLIFT PORTUGUESE REFUGEES FROM WARTORN ANGOLA TO THEIR MOTHERLAND. THE STATE DEPARTMENT AGREED BEFOREHAND IN PRINCIPLE TO HONOR SUCH A REQUEST. THE ANNOUNCEMENTS LEAVE UNANSWERED WHETHER WASHINGTON IS DELAYING IMPLEMENTATION UNTIL LISBON INSTALLS A CONGENIAL GOVERNMENT. THE ONLY HUMANITARIAN AND SENSIBLE POLICY WOULD BE TO ORGANIZE THE FLIGHTS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. LISBON WILL BE AN UNCERTAIN PLACE POLITICALLY FOR SOME TIME AFTER THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT. ANY CRUDE ATTEMPT TO USE MERCY FLIGHTS AS POLITICAL BLACKMAIL WOULD BACKFIRE, CREATING AN ANTI-AMERICAN BACKLASH IN PORTUGUESE PUBLIC OPINION. AND IF WASHINGTON WANTS TO BE MACHIAVELLIAN ABOUT IT, THOSE SETTLERS FROM ANGOLA, ONCE DEPOSITED AS BITTER AND PENNILESS RETURNEES IN A PORTUGAL ILL-EQUIPPED TO PROVIDE FOR THEM, WILL DO A LOT MORE TO BRING ABOUT THE

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KIND OF GOVERNMENT WASHINGTON WANTS THAN THEY WOULD

CROUCHING FOR THEIR LIVES BELOW THE ANGOLAN CROSSFIRE." INGERSOLL

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